



Defensive Driving

Today's presentation

- Common causes of vehicle accidents.
- Definition of driving.
- 5 keys to defensive driving.
- Summary.

Common causes of vehicle accidents

- Inattention.
- Too much attention to too little.
- Not enough time.
- Not enough space.
- Not allowing for the mistakes of others.
- Not enough training.
- Failure to adjust to conditions.
- Attitude.
- Driver impairment.
- Vehicle failure.

What is driving?

Driving is the repetition of three basic actions:

- Seeing.
- Thinking.
- Doing.

Driving safely, defensively

You must:

- Perceive trouble.
- Predict what action to take.
- Perform such action in a timely manner.

Important considerations

- More space.
- More visibility.
- More time.



5 Keys to defensive driving

1. Aim high in steering.
2. Get the big picture.
3. Keep your eyes moving.
4. Leave yourself an out.
5. Make sure they see you.

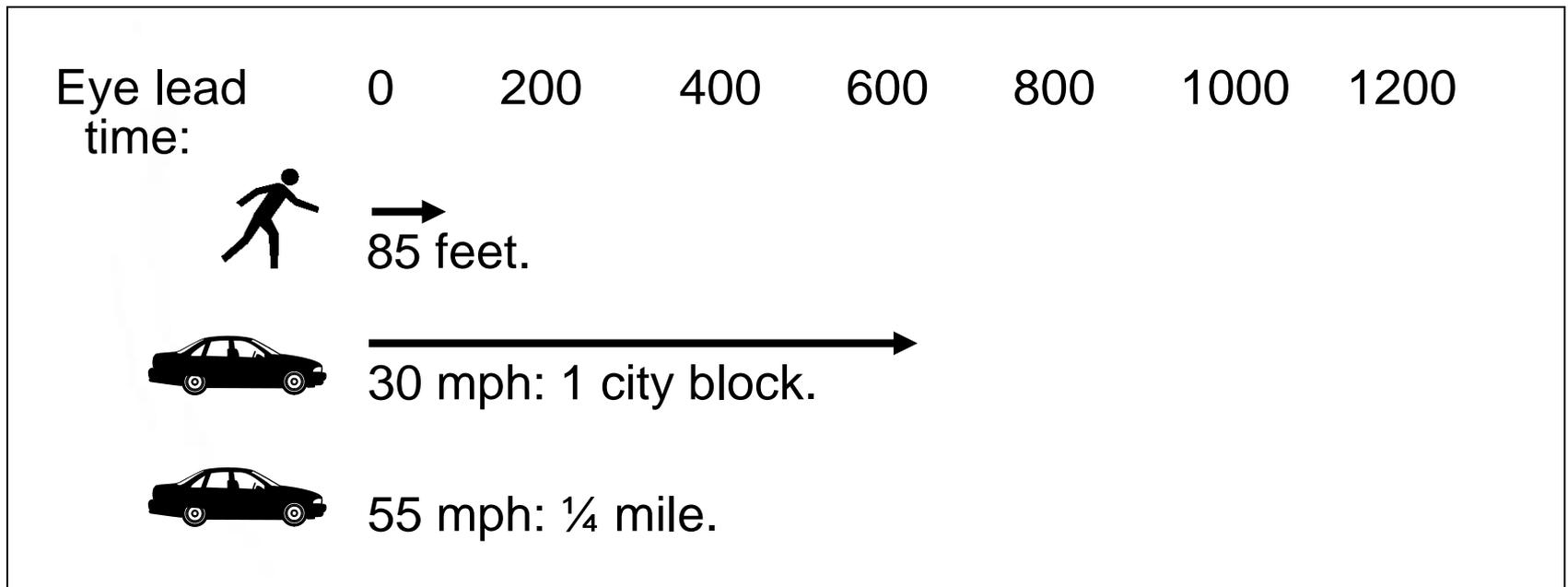
1

Aim high in steering

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- Look ahead.
- Aim for a target—target is always moving.
- Set your sights high.

Eye lead time

Where your vehicle will be in 15 seconds.



2

Get the BIG picture

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- How big?
- What does it contain?
 - Stationary objects.
 - People: unpredictable.
 - Instruction — traffic controls.

2

Get the BIG picture continued

- How do you get and keep?
 - Establish proper following distance: 2-4 second rule.
 - Check for traffic changes.
 - Concentrate on the job of driving.
 - Scan.
 - Use mirrors: 5 – 8 seconds.

3

Keep your eyes moving

- Don't stare.
- 2 second rule.
- Constantly check full circle of safety.

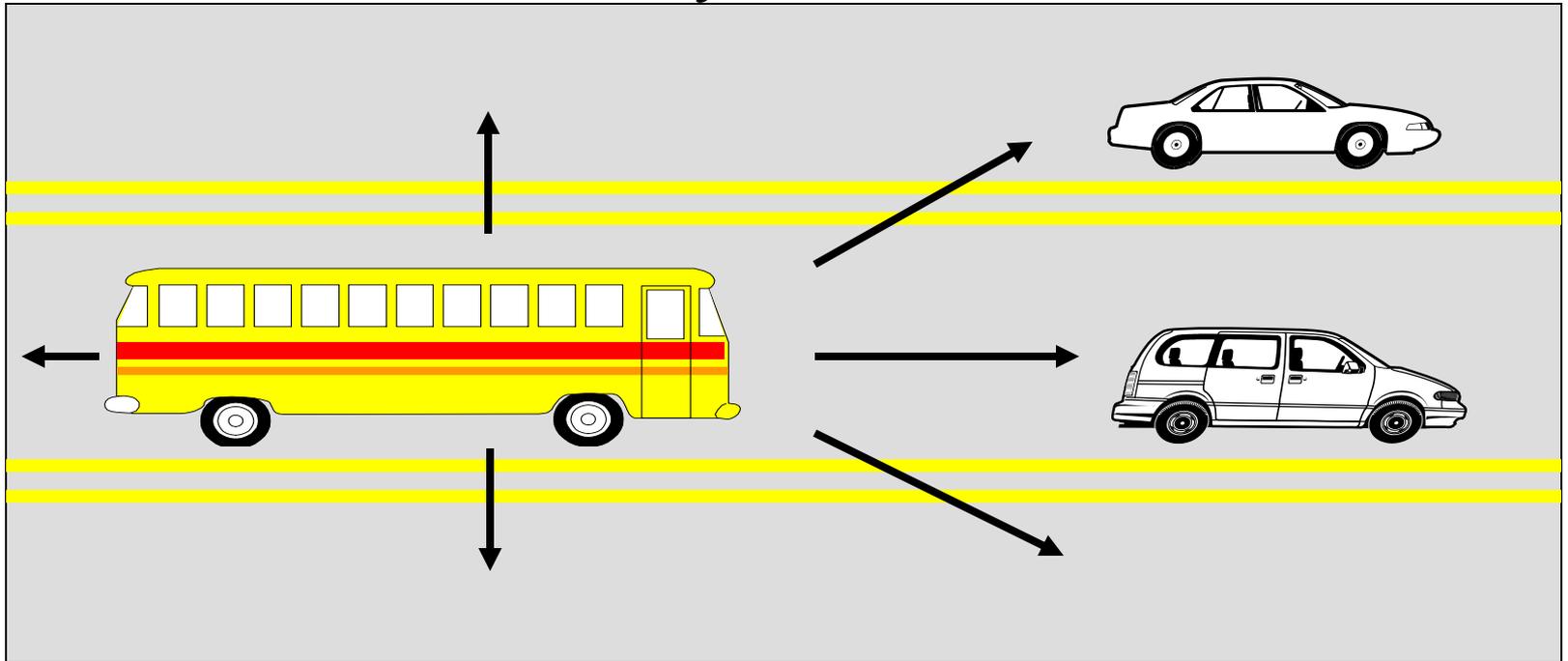
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Leave yourself an out

- Don't follow too close.
- Leave yourself a space cushion.
- Don't get trapped.

Space cushion driving

Pre-determined way out.



5

Make sure they see you

Who:

- Pedestrians.
- Other drivers.
- Children.

How:

- Eye contact.
- Communicate.
 - Horn.
 - Lights.
 - Hand signals.

Accident prevention goals

- More space for your vehicle.
- Improved visibility for you.
- More time to make decisions.

Summary



5 keys of defensive driving

1. Aim high.
2. Big picture.
3. Keep eyes moving.
4. Leave yourself an out.
5. Make sure they see you.

Driver Observations

- Measures your practicing of the five keys to safe driving
- Gives you knowledge of areas that you need to improve
- Provides measurement to improve upon year to year